Enclosure to the letter.

Extract from the evidence given by the Right Hon'ble Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., G. B. E., C. M. G., M. P., Secretary of State for India, before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform, on 28th July 1933.

(*Page 987 of the Minutes of Evidence.*)

Referring to the tributes paid by the Indian States the Secretary of State said in reply to Mr. Zafrulla Khan:—

"May I just before Mr. Zafrulla Khan departs from the question of tributes say in a sentence or two my own view about the question? I am quite aware that many anomalies can be urged against any such arrangement as that suggested by Mr. Davidson's Committee, and I am quite aware that historically you can make every kind of case against every kind of action in this or that instance. I am, however, quite clear that they are a tiresome form of contribution: that, judged by modern conditions, many of them are very unsuited to a new Constitution, and that, quite apart from their justice in the past and the historical reasons that led to them, it would be a very good thing to get them cleared out of the picture in any new Indian Constitution. Further than that, that Members of the Committee and Delegates should remember that there is not a very large sum at stake. Under a system of annuities and setting the tributes against the immunities, it would involve an expenditure of about £280,000 a year. I am inclined to think that from every point of view, the point of view of both British India and the point of view of the Indian States, it would be worth making an expenditure of that kind under the new Constitution. It would be worth clearing out of the way a number of these rather tiresome questions, but if they are not settled in a rather rough and ready way at the start they will, I believe, lead to almost endless friction in the future."

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